

SEE WEDNESDAY'S REPUBLIC FOR LEADING MERCHANTS' MIDWEEK BARGAINS.

ARGENTINE AND CHILE OFFER  
NEW BATTLESHIPS TO AMERICA.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Both Argentina and Chile, through their respective Ministers in Washington, have proposed to the United States purchase by this Government of the armored cruisers and battleships which the two South American countries have under construction in Europe.

CHILDREN FIND MOTHER DEAD  
FROM EFFECTS OF CHLOROFORM.

After Sending Little Ones to Sunday School, Mrs. Rose Droge Retires to Her Room and Places Saturated Handkerchief to Her Face—Suffered From Melancholia.



MRS. ROSE DROGE.  
Who was found dead in bed by her five children, her face covered with a handkerchief.

Mrs. Rose Droge of No. 4284 Franklin avenue, after dressing her five children for Sunday school yesterday morning and bidding them good-bye, retired to her bedroom and saturated a handkerchief in chloroform, placed it over her face and inhaled the fumes.

The woman's body was found stretched upon a bed by the children when they returned from Sunday school. The little ones at first thought their mother was sleeping. When they discovered that her body was cold they were overcome with grief.

Four of the children remained at the bedside crying over the prostrate form, while Katherine, the eldest, 7 years old, rushed from the house and notified the neighbors. The father, who was away on business, arrived home shortly after the children had notified the neighbors.

Doctor R. L. Rieger of No. 4152 North Newstead avenue was summoned, but he would not state positively whether death had been self-inflicted or due to an accident. He advised that the police and coroner be notified and declined to give a certificate of death until an inquest had been held.

VICTIM OF MELANCHOLIA.  
Mrs. Droge had been suffering from melancholia caused by grief over the death of her son, Arthur, who committed suicide two years ago. Mr. Droge told friends that his wife attempted to end her life several months ago.

Mrs. Droge was 31 years old. Prior to the death of her son, she was of a jovial disposition. Recently, however, she had been brooding and several times, according to relatives, indicated that she was tired of life.

Mrs. Droge awoke at her usual hour yesterday morning and as she went about her regular household duties appeared to be in better spirits than for several weeks. She got breakfast and assisted the children in preparing for Sunday school. When they were ready to depart she kissed each one of them and seemed to return home in time for dinner.

The children attended the German Baptist Mission at Kossuth and Grove avenues. On returning home the children noticed on entering the dining-room that the table had not been set for dinner. Then they went into the kitchen, thinking that perhaps their mother had had a visitor and had been delayed in her work of cooking the midday meal. She was not to be found and there was no fire in the stove.

They then went from room to room, calling "Mamma! Mamma!"

When they received no response they be-

lieved that something was wrong. When Arthur reached their mother's bedroom and saw her lying on the bed they thought she was sleeping, and for a moment their fear left them. They gathered about the bed, intending to awaken her. Katherine lifted the handkerchief from her mother's face. They noticed that the features had become discolored and that the body was rigid.

FIND MOTHER DEAD.  
All the children except Katherine climbed upon the bed and threw themselves about their mother's body, crying as though their hearts would break. They pleaded with her to open her eyes and speak to them, and they stroked her cold face with their hands.

The physician after examining the body stated that Mrs. Droge had been dead at least half an hour. The husband received this announcement with grief, and neighbors had to support him for fear he would give way beneath the strain.

Mrs. Droge left no note explaining the deed, and for that reason her relatives were inclined to accept the theory that her death might have been due to an accident. She had used chloroform on several occasions for an aching tooth, they said, although in the manner in which she had covered her face with the saturated handkerchief.

Doctor Rieger stated that fully two ounces of the drug had been used.

Frank Droge was the woman's second husband. Her first husband, whose name was Just, died several years ago. Her son, Arthur, died of pneumonia, ended his life two years ago. Since the latter's death, Mrs. Droge had been given to spells of grief and at times expressed a desire to die.

No arrangements have been made for the funeral. Mrs. Droge was born in Switzerland.

Democrats, have been visiting in St. Louis several days, the guests of their old friend Penn Brister. Both Colonel Spencer and Mr. Nolan are prominent politicians in their section, the former having made the race for Congress from the First Indiana District last fall, but was defeated.

Lonely Doctor Is Swamped With Proposals to Wed.

Advertisement for Housekeeper Increases the Belleville Man's Mail to Enormous Proportions.

Doctor J. L. Perryman of Belleville, who advertised for a housekeeper of middle age and threatened if he did not secure one he would get married, is in more of a quandary than before he advertised.

The prominence given the doctor's strange advertisement attracted much attention, especially in St. Louis, and Doctor Perryman's mail yesterday contained fifty applications from St. Louis alone of middle-aged women who wanted the position of housekeeper, and some were willing to marry him if he would agree to give them a good home and treat them well.

Doctor Perryman is partial to a Belleville woman for the position of housekeeper, and he will not consider the outside applications until he is absolutely sure that he cannot get a Belleville woman to take charge of his house for him. His principal object is to get a housekeeper of known quality so that he may rest assured that his house will be in good hands when he chooses to leave it.

Several suggestions have been made by some of the doctor's friends, and one of these, which has been pronounced as most feasible, is to have all of the applicants for the position of housekeeper appear at Doctor Perryman's residence and then he could make a selection from among them.

MR. STONE IN WASHINGTON.

Senator Elect Discusses High Destiny of the Democratic Party.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Washington, Feb. 1.—William J. Stone, Senator-elect from Missouri, is in the city.

"I am sure," said Governor Stone, "that every intelligent student of national politics will concede that the Democratic party is gaining strength all the time. The factional differences which have been the main source of disaster have about disappeared and the party will be completely reunited before the next campaign.

"The American people are looking to the Democracy for extensive reforms and they know full well that if the Republicans are continued in power there will be no legislation at all productive of the desired result."

PLUNGED TO DEATH  
IMPRISONED IN CAR

Mississippi Farmer and His Family, Locked in Freight, Dashed Into River.

CATASTROPHE AT VICKSBURG.

Twenty Men Compelled to Watch Car Pitch Down Incline Without Being Able to Render Help.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Vicksburg, Miss., Feb. 1.—J. H. Land of Newton, Miss., and probably all of his family were drowned, inclosed in a box car which broke loose from a switch engine on the V. & G. P. Railway incline to-night, ran down the incline over the transfer boat Delta and plunged into the Mississippi River.

Three bodies, a young man, an elderly man and a boy, were taken from the floating car to-night. They are supposed to be Land and his sons. It is supposed that Land's wife is still in the car. The search for others will continue all night. Land was a farmer and lived at Newton.

The accident is without a parallel in this section, and brave-hearted railroad men were almost transfixed with consternation at the very awfulness of the situation. The last heard of Land was his shrieks for assistance as he shot down the incline. Twenty men standing helplessly by could not aid him.

Acting Superintendent Babney is at the head of a force of willing workers, endeavoring to remove the body or bodies from the car as it floats about in the river, sometimes showing itself half way above the surface of the water and then going under, being drawn to the surface by the ropes the railroad men succeeded in getting around it.

WORK WITH DIFFICULTY.  
Great caution must be taken by the workmen, or they will get tangled within a dreadful eddy, just where the car floats. The big transfer boat, the Pelican, the new boat which has not yet been in service, lies just in the rear of where the floating car lies.

Yardmaster Dunn told the following story of the accident:

"I was present when the switch engine No. 44, in charge of Engineer Mooney, started to back a half dozen cars down the incline shortly after 6 o'clock. How the cars broke loose I cannot say, but they started and flew down the incline, which is about 30 yards long, at a rapid rate, and there was no way to stop their flight."

"I heard screams from the man in the car, but whether there were more people in the car with him I cannot say. The car ran over the transfer boat and clear through her back end, dropped off her stern into the water, where it broke loose from the others and floated about in the river for several hundred feet around and could not do anything, and it was awful not to be able to give any assistance."

FAMILY PROBABLY IN CAR.  
Land had a car or so of stock, moving from Newton, Miss., to Monroe, La.

Several doctors have gone down to the transfer station, but it is believed that they will be of no service, as no more sounds have been heard from the car for the last hour.

The V. & G. P. transfer incline is a peculiarly situated place. It is about two miles before the city proper, and the trains of this road have to descend a precipitous incline and considerable trestle work before they get to where the run of several hundred yards to the transfer boat is standing in the main body of the Mississippi River.

Two Persons Asphyxiated.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Burlington, Ia., Feb. 1.—Two Syrians named Melome were found dead in bed at the Burlington Hotel this morning, having been asphyxiated by blowing out the gas. Four companions narrowly escaped.

LEADING TOPICS  
TO DAY'S REPUBLIC

THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 7:04 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 5:22  
THE MOON SETS THIS EVENING AT 10:38

WEATHER INDICATIONS.  
For Missouri—Fair to west, rain in east Monday; much colder at night. Tuesday, fair and colder in east and south.

For Illinois—Rain in south, rain or snow in north Monday. Tuesday, fair and colder.

For Eastern Texas—Fair in north, showers in south Monday. Tuesday, cooler.

For Western Texas—Fair Monday; colder in north. Tuesday, fair and colder.

For Arkansas—Fair and colder Monday; rain or snow Tuesday.

Page.  
1. Finch Refuses to Lead the Posse.  
2. Music Hall Crowded at Morgan Meeting.  
3. Fire Caused Death of William Brunner. Free Delivery for St. Louis County.  
4. Have Not Decided on a Starting Gate. Race Entries.  
5. Football.  
6. Lead and Zinc Report.  
7. Editorial.  
8. Stage News and Notes.  
9. Express Train Makes New Record.  
10. Railway News.  
11. Kansas City Clarifies Water by the Alton Process.  
12. Republic "Want" Advertisements.  
13. Republic "Want" Advertisements. East Side News.  
14. Sermons and Services at the Churches.  
15. Covering by Shorts Causes Slight Gain. Provisions.  
16. Cotton.  
17. Live Stock.  
18. Making Animals for World's Fair. Visitors at St. Louis Hotels. Mayor to Attend Carnival.  
19. Found Dying in Cellar at His Mother's Home.

"BARRINGTON OF THE HORSE GUARDS"  
IS THRASHED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW.



James F. Cochrane of Kansas City Deals Severely With "Lieut. Col. Barrington," Who, He Claims, Induced His Sister to Marry Him.

MATRIMONY.—Honorable English gentleman, 38, of high social rank, desire to correspond with refined, educated, nonsectarian, eligible lady, with view to honorable marriage; no agents.

In a dingy cell in the Fourth District Police Station a man whose card proclaims him Lieutenant Colonel F. Barrington, a brigadier of a week and three days spent Sunday night as the cellmate of two drunken men and a negro.

His predicament was caused by a meeting between himself and his brother-in-law, James F. Cochrane of Kansas City, Mo. The meeting took place at the home of 12 E. Elliott, No. 438 West Belle place and according to Cochrane's statement Barrington was kicked from the premises, although he claims to be a member of His Majesty's Own Horse Guards and a fighter who has fought many a stubborn battle against the Boers.

Barrington, a week ago last Thursday married Miss Wilhelmina Grace Cochrane a Kansas City young lady who was visiting her sister, Mrs. D. E. Elliott.

Their courtship was but three weeks' duration and to all appearances was a happy one.

It was too sudden for the parents of the bride, however, especially since Barrington was a man unknown to them, and they voiced their dissatisfaction of the union in numerous letters.

Growing accounts of the wealth and position of the bridegroom were sent back to Kansas City. "He is an English Lord and prominent in English literary circles under his Majesty King Edward," they said, but still the fears of the home folks were not appeased.

COCHRANE BEGINS TO INVESTIGATE AFFAIRS.  
James F. Cochrane, the brother, then took it upon himself to investigate the character of the man his sister had married and the result of that investigation will land all the principals in the Second District Police Station this morning on charges of disturbing the peace preferred by the police.

The rumour which caused the sudden exposure of the Barringtons' matrimonial affairs occurred about 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Patrolmen Reeves and Turner of the Sixth District were passing the Elliott home when loud voices attracted their attention. As they approached the house they saw Cochrane doing his utmost to eject his brother-in-law.

Cochrane insisted that Barrington be arrested. Barrington declared that Cochrane was the aggressor, so the policeman took both to the station, where they were held in separate cells.

Cochrane was bailed out shortly after by Thomas Scully of No. 450 Easton avenue, but Barrington, not being able to secure a bail, remained in the station in jail all Sunday and Sunday night.

At 5 o'clock Barrington was transferred to the Fourth District Police Station. His photograph was taken for the rogues' gallery.

Cochrane told the police a long story of alleged impositions practiced by Barrington upon his family.

"He is an impostor of the worst caliber," he said. An adventurer, in fact, he called him, and added that had not Barrington misrepresented himself to his sister they would not have been married.

Cochrane told of the affair in the following manner:

"As I understand," said he, "Barrington came to room at the Elliotts shortly before Christmas."

"He told of his birth and the wealth that would be his when an aged relative died. He also stated that he was a member of His Majesty's Own Horse Guards."

CLAIMED HE WAS SPYING ON BRITISH CONSULS.  
Of course, Mrs. Elliott took him at his word, but we have since found out that these statements were absolutely untrue.

"He said that he was sent here by Lord Herbert, the English Ambassador to the United States. His mission, he said, was to spy on the English Consuls at St. Louis and also at Kansas City, and at the same time, he said, he was putting in his spare time investigating the men who had charge of supplying the British Government with Missouri mules during the time of the Boer War."

"He told great stories of how he was entertained by the foremost families of St. Louis, and he gave names of persons on several occasions whom we have since ascertained did not exist."

"Finally my sister came to St. Louis and the next thing we knew she and Barrington were married."

"When I heard of his stories about himself I began an investigation. I went to the British Consul at Kansas City and found that there was no such person in the British Consular Service."

Continued on Page Two.

FINCH REFUSES  
TO LEAD THE POSSE

Former Companion of Bill Rudolph Wants Reward Before He Will Start Forth.

ROBBERS NOT AT THE CAVE.

Letter From Home of Bandit's Father Waiting for Ollie Beyers Asher—She Will Surrender It to Officers.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 1.—The Reverend Crayton Brooks, pastor of the First Christian Church, who set the whole State talking by preaching a crusade sermon last Sunday, devoted some time to the moral condition of Jefferson City to-night. He said he now believed that not half of the truth had been made known.

He urged the people to co-operate in the work of reforming the city. He said the eyes of the State were turned upon the city and it would take time to get results.

The little old church building was severely taxed to accommodate the crowd which attended the service in expectation of hearing some new sensation. They were disappointed, however. They heard some plain statements of facts. The allies of the city were turned upon the city and it would take time to get results.

A large number of the legislators who remained in the city over Sunday occupied and listened closely. The minister has announced that he will engage the opera-house to address the overflow meetings.

The church will only hold about 500, and it is feared the opera-house will soon become too small if the interest in the crusade keeps up. Almost all the ministers in the city are in it.

The saloons were open part of the day and the doors were always open. However, some of the saloonkeepers say that the crusade is hurting their business.

Doctor Brooks prayed for the deliverance of the city and asked that the officials might be given strength enough to enforce the laws.

In his sermon he said: "I am a Missourian. I was born and reared in Missouri, and I am proud of it. I want to see Missouri's capital second to none in the land. If the citizens of Jefferson City cannot bring about reform, then they must call upon the people of the State to help them."

"However, the eyes of the whole State are upon us, and we must not fail. The majority of the people of this city are for law and order. We have allowed ourselves to be bulldozed by the minority."

"One of my friends wrote to me, and told me that I had undertaken a herculean task. He said: 'You might make the Missouri River run up hill, but you cannot reform Jefferson City.' Now the time has come to show the people in expectation of hearing some new sensation. They were disappointed, however. They heard some plain statements of facts. The allies of the city were turned upon the city and it would take time to get results."

Plans of Crown Princess of Saxony and M. Giron.

Paris, Feb. 1.—A dispatch to the Matin from Mentone states that the Crown Princess of Saxony and M. Giron intend going to the United States.

INTEND TO COME TO AMERICA.

PASTOR SCORES VICE  
IN MISSOURI CAPITAL

The Reverend Crayton Brooks Asks Citizens to Help Reform Jefferson City.

SCORES OFFICIALS OF TOWN.

Christian Minister Will Rent the Opera-House to Conduct His Crusade Against Crimes of the Day.

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.  
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CASTRO IS AGAINST  
THE PREFERENTIAL  
DEMANDS OF ALLIES

Says Venezuela Desires Equal Treatment of All Its Creditors.

FEARS WORLD WAR MAY ENSUE

Many Conferences Among Ministers of the Allies and Mr. Bowen Yesterday.

REPLY OF POWERS IS AWAITED.

Hoped in Washington That They Will Recede—Sternberg's Action Indicates Germany Wants Settlement.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.  
Washington, Feb. 1.—No communication has been received by Minister Bowen, Venezuelan Commissioner, from the allied Powers in reply to his latest declaration that the allies must accept settlement of their claims on a basis with other nations.

The delay of the Powers in final action in insisting that they be granted preferential treatment is favorable to hope of settlement of the entire controversy on a basis of equality for all.

It is favorable, because the diplomatic representatives of England, Germany and Italy are learning the tremendous strength of the public feeling against the stupid course of the allies and the realisation with which the lesser claimant nations hold the ground that they be allowed settlement on the same terms and at the same time with the allied Powers.

MUCH ACTIVITY.  
For a Sunday there was considerable activity between the negotiations here to-day.

Most important of all the movements was the call made this afternoon by Sir Michael Herbert, the British Ambassador, upon Secretary Hay at the latter's home.

Sir Michael was undoubtedly enthusiastic to the view of the administration takes of the latest phase of the Venezuelan question.

Signor Mayor das Planchas, the Italian Ambassador, made a short personal call on Mr. Bowen. Mr. Bowen, late in the afternoon, called upon Baron von Sternberg at the German embassy.

Baron von Sternberg is desirous that the negotiations not be hurried, as he wants a little more time to familiarize himself with the details of the subject. He does not want the question to go to the Hague.

As in the case of the other Powers, it seems to be that the diplomatic representatives of the Powers and all three of them are personally favorable to settlement on the terms proposed by the Venezuelan Government.

Transmitting to their Governments their view of the public sentiment as it prevails here and their ideas as to what will be the outcome of insisted by Germany on preferential treatment by the allied Powers.

PREFERENTIAL.  
Nothing has occurred in the last three days which would justify any of them in advising their respective Governments to maintain the attitude of insisting on preferential treatment. It can be stated authoritatively that Baron von Sternberg favors Mr. Bowen's offer and will employ his influence at Berlin in advising its acceptance. His activity is considered a very hopeful sign.

Both Sir Michael Herbert and Baron von Sternberg in the last two days have had opportunity to gauge to a nicety the attitude of the United States Government ascribed by a high governmental official the attitude of the Roosevelt administration is just this:

"The allies' programme of coercion of Venezuela was a fool's errand. It has done them no good. They have blockaded and bombarded, but with more damage to themselves than to Venezuela. They have been ridiculed by all the world for trying to skin a flea for its tailow. They have been harshly criticised at home for their action."

"Now that settlement is in sight they realize the stupidity which has marked their policy from the first. They want to gain something at the eleventh hour. They desire to emerge from the negotiations as victors with the appearance of having gained something. So they are attempting to gain prestige by acquiring preferential treatment."

"They want to go on before it is too late to say, 'We have gained preferential treatment in the settlement of our claims. This is worth all of the trouble of the blockade.'"

"But there is no credit available for the Powers. There is no glory for them because they have bullied Venezuela into payment of her claims. By insisting on preferential treatment they are antagonizing other Governments who have claims which they are satisfied to hope will be settled by peaceable means instead of blockades and bombardments."

"It will do the allies no good to further insist. Their position is rendered daily more untenable and their appearance in the eyes of the world hourly more ridiculous. The United States realizes that Venezuela is ready to pay, and wants to pay, to the best of her ability, and the refusal by the Powers to accept her payment because of a triviality, born of their humiliation, is an evidence of the insincerity of their declarations that the coercive programme was instituted only for the collection of the debt."

In short, this means that the Powers are playing with fire in pursuing their present course.

France has in its power to continue the present deadlock in the Washington negotiations, for while the other unallied claimants have outstanding claims against Venezuela, certain undischarged claims, all of the French claims are in a very forward state.

France contends that so far from assisting her in the collection of her Venezuelan claims, the blockade, if anything, has hampered her in that it has closed all the Venezuelan ports to commerce and has prevented, for the time being, the collection of the 13 per cent of the receipts pledged her by treaty.

CASTRO FEARS THAT  
CONFLICT WILL DEVELOP  
INTO A WORLD WAR.

SPECIAL BY CABLE TO THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC.  
Caracas, Venezuela, Feb. 1.—(Copyright, 1903.)—President Castro this afternoon received me at Miraflores palace and expressed a willingness to grant an interview.

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